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Application Serial No. 09/782,011

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for inspecting a consumer's computer, contents of said computer's storage devices, comprising

5 the steps of:

at least one inspector, which includes an inspector library having special purpose executable code, executing on said consumer's computer;

said inspector automatically and without receiving consumer input querying at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said  
10 consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer, wherein said property information physical device from said at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer comprises both a remote control and a smart TV and any of said computer's:

15 storage device;  
operating system version;  
operating system property;  
RAM;  
ROM; and  
20 registry,

wherein said inspector performs any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers; and

wherein said inspector automatically evaluates a database of advise for  
25 relevance to said consumer's computer by use of an automated advise reader, wherein said advise reader operates in the absence of consumer involvement.

2 - 4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

sending certain relevance clauses to a remote location;

5 evaluating said clauses; and

returning said clauses after a user is made aware of what is being transferred; wherein properties of said remote location are learned.

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) An computer implemented inspector for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripherals, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, said inspector comprising:

15 an inspector library containing executable code written in an extensible and non-procedural language using no function calls with variable arguments, which is invoked as part of a continual relevance evaluation process, executing on said consumer's computer;

20 wherein said inspector is configured to automatically and without receiving consumer input query at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer, wherein said inspector does not inspect a printer of said computer's peripherals;

25 one or more automatic unattended inspector methods for performing any of mathematico-logical calculations, executing computational algorithms, returning the results of system calls, accessing the contents of storage devices, and querying devices or remote computers; and

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wherein a one way membrane allows said inspector methods to view a relevant advisory without divulging user's identity.

8. (Cancelled)

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9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein certain relevance clauses are sent to a remote location, evaluated, and returned, after a user is made aware of what is being transferred, wherein properties of the remote location can be learned.

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10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein properties which can be learned are an arbitrary combination of elementary properties that are determined according to basic calculations.

15 11. (Previously Presented) The inspector of Claim 10, said inspector library further comprising any of:

a declaration of a Phrase to be used in a relevance language;

an association of said Phrase to a specific method;

a declaration of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;

20 a declaration of a calling prototype of said specific method, including a number and required data types of arguments to be supplied to said specific method;

a declaration of a result data type of said specific method;

an implementation of said specific method in executable form;

25 a declaration of special hooks associating code to be called on events;

a declaration of special hooks associated with creation and maintenance of special caches associated with said specific method; and

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an implementation of special event methods and cache methods in executable form.

12. (Currently Amended) In a computer implemented system including a  
5 population of information consumers and computational devices connected by a  
communications network, said system comprising a communications apparatus  
for linking an information provider to information consumer, said communications  
apparatus comprising specific units of advice to be shared, digital documents  
conveying said advice, an advice provider for broadcasting said advice in the  
10 form of advisories, an individual advice consumer having a computer for  
receiving said advisories, wherein advisories are broadcast over said  
communications network from said advice provider to said advice consumer, a  
communications protocol for narrowly focused targeting of said advisories to said  
advice consumer by automatically matching advisories with an advice consumer  
15 for whom said advisories are relevant, said system comprising:

computational devices connected by a communications network;

a communications apparatus linking an information provider to the  
population of information consumers, said communications apparatus  
comprising:

20 millions of units of advice to be shared;

digital documents conveying said advice;

an advice provider broadcasting said millions of units of advice to  
the population of information consumers in the form of advisories,

25 wherein advisories are broadcast over said communications  
network from said advice provider;

an inspector automatically matching a relevant specific unit of  
advice from said millions of units of advice for the advice consumer;

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a communications protocol for narrowly-focused targeting of said specific unit of advice to the advice consumer;

~~advisories with an advice consumer for whom said advisories are relevant~~

5 an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination without user intervention, wherein said relevance determination is driven by a database of relevance clauses which can be continually evaluated;

~~said at least one~~ inspector executing on said consumer's computer, comprising:

10 an inspector library and associated methods for evaluating subexpressions with said at least one inspector;

15 wherein said inspector library contains executable code which is invoked by said inspector dispatcher as part of said relevance determination process, said executable code written in an extensible and non-procedural language using no function calls with variable arguments;

wherein said inspector is configured to automatically and without receiving consumer input query at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer;

20 wherein said inspector comprises use of any of:

a database containing information about the user;

a remote inspector, wherein said remote inspector comprises use of at least one of a remote physical measurement, a remote database query, and a remote relevance invocation;

25 a log file; and

operates using user profile data, and

wherein said inspector performs any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of

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system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers.

13-20. (Cancelled)

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

invoking said inspector with an advice reader running on said consumer's computer.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of:

accessing said special purpose executable code using said advice reader.

15 23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

installing at least a portion of contents of said inspector library at run-time.

20 24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

delivering advisories from an advice provider to said consumer's computer based upon results from said at least one inspector.

25 25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said step of delivering advisories from an advice provider further comprises the step of:

delivering information from a plurality of advice providers.

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26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein information about a consumer does not transfer from said consumer's computer unless said consumer initiates said transfer.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

dynamically updating a collection of said inspector libraries.

10 28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of inspecting using said at least one inspector any of:

version;

operating system;

registry;

15

preferences;

a database;

advise system;

user profile; and

program log files.

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29-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for inspecting any of the properties of a consumer's computer, ~~said computer's configuration,~~  
25 ~~contents of said computer's storage devices,~~ said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, comprising the steps of:

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at least one inspector, which includes an inspector library having special purpose executable code, executing on said consumer's computer; said inspector automatically and without receiving consumer input querying at least one physical property of said consumer's computer, in order to glean property  
5 information concerning said consumer's computer;

wherein said inspector performs all of any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers; ~~and~~

10 wherein said inspector automatically evaluates a database of advise for relevance to said consumer's computer by use of an automated advise reader, wherein said advise reader operates in the absence of consumer involvement, and

15 wherein said inspector queries at least one peripheral attached to the consumer's computer to determine environment state about the consumer's computer, wherein said environmental state comprises both thermal and acoustic results; and

20 communicating an advisory to said consumer's computer based on said automated advise reader, said environmental state, and said contents of storage devices.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said property information ~~physical property~~ comprises any of said computer's:

25 speed;  
manufacturer;  
model;  
MMX; and  
cache.



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37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein said inspector operates on at least one element that is not a printer.